

## BOOK REVIEWS

**BENDER-GESTALT TEST, THE—Quantification and Validity for Adults.** By Gerald R. Pascal, Ph.D., Research Psychologist, Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic; Associate Professor of Psychology, University of Pittsburgh; and Barbara J. Suttell, M.S., Associate Research Psychologist, Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic. Grune and Stratton, New York, 1951. 274 pages. \$6.50.

The clinical psychologist is assuming an increasingly important role as a colleague to the psychiatrist in diagnosis, research and treatment of psychological problems. He has gone a long way from being merely a psychometrician who determines only I.Q.'s. A test such as the Rorschach test is now so well known that the general public is quite aware of its place in the psychiatrist's office.

Not so popularly known is the Bender-Gestalt test which consists of nine simple designs each of which is presented to the patient for him to copy on a sheet of paper. It has been in use for several years as an instrument to estimate intelligence, psychological disturbances and, in particular, the results of cortical disease or injury. Until now, however, there have been only a few limited attempts to quantify the deviations from "normal." The authors postulate that those deviations in an individual of normal intelligence without evident brain damage reflect his attitude toward reality and this attitude is a function of the integrative capacity of the organism.

This volume describes the method of administration and scoring of the test; the data upon which the reliability of the test and scoring system are based, the manner in which standardization on a normal population was accomplished, and the test validity in a group of psychiatric patients, both neurotic and psychotic. This last point is based on the assumption that psychiatrists can accurately differentiate between neurosis and psychosis, but such an assumption is not correct since even the definition of these terms is a controversial one. The authors have assumed, however, that in-patients were "primarily psychotic" and out-patients "primarily neurotic."

Many figures throughout the volume reproduce designs made by children, patients with cortical deficit, and individuals with psychogenic disorders (manic-depressive psychosis, schizophrenia, and neurotic reactions). The significance of high, low, and fluctuating scores and of specific attitudes and deviations in the performance of the Bender-Gestalt test is thoroughly elaborated.

A scoring manual is part of the text, definitions and evaluations of scoring deviations are described in detail, the authors' score sheet is reproduced, and an atlas of 45 representative scored records is presented to facilitate the tester in developing reliable scoring methods.

As in so many other psychological tests clinical judgment must be added to the quantitative scores of the Bender-Gestalt test if it is to be of predictive value in an individual case. "The quantification of the Bender-Gestalt test will, it is hoped, assist the clinician; it does not supplant the need for his art." The test has the advantages of simplicity and speed of administration and if it is utilized as a part of a battery of procedures it may be useful in assisting in psychiatric diagnosis and prognosis. As in other aspects of medicine a test is only as accurate and reliable as the person who administers and interprets it. The authors are to be commended for presenting a clear exposition of this psychological tool and of describing its advantages and limitations.

**THE PHYSIOLOGY OF THE NEW BORN INFANT—Second Edition.** By Clement A. Smith, M.D., Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Boston Lying-in Hospital, Harvard Medical School. Charles C. Thomas, Springfield, Illinois, 1951. 348 pages. \$7.50.

The second edition of "The Physiology of the New Born" is a book which will fill a large need for every physician who assumes responsibility for the care of the infant. To the student of medicine it presents our present knowledge of physiologic, metabolic and immunologic processes of the newborn and the important period of early infancy in a most clear, concise and critically evaluated manner. An effort has been made to present and integrate data obtained from studies of these processes on human subjects with those of animal studies.

Further, the author's rich background of clinical experience and academic observations permit him to present a careful and critical evaluation of the significance of the physiologic and metabolic processes to disease states in infants. Each chapter is concluded with clinical applications of the academic observations.

The chapters on water and electrolyte metabolism and renal physiology are unusually well presented and provide basic information of value to all physicians responsible for the medical or surgical care of infants. Newer knowledge of endocrine physiology and its relationship to homeostatic biochemical and physiologic adjustments of infancy are presented. The chapters on the fundamental aspects of nutrition and immunity of the infant have been reviewed in a practical manner. The bibliography for references is extensive.

This book is a "must" to all students of medicine. Practitioners concerned with the care of infants will find a sound basis for the application of intelligent therapy to disease states of infancy. Obstetricians, particularly, will find this book of great value in understanding the limitations as well as the resistances to stress that reside in the physiologic and biochemical make-up of the infant.

\* \* \*

**CLINICAL PEDIATRIC UROLOGY.** By Meredith Campbell, M.S., M.D., F.A.C.S., Professor of Urology, New York University Post-Graduate Medical School. With a section on *Nephritis and Allied Diseases in Infancy and Childhood* by Elvira Goettsch, A.B., M.D., Associate Professor of Pediatrics, University of Southern California School of Medicine; and John D. Lyttle, A.B., M.D., late Professor of Pediatrics, University of Southern California School of Medicine. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1951. 1112 pages with 543 figures. \$18.00.

Pediatric urology differs from that in the adult, hence deserves a separate text for two reasons: It requires special instruments and techniques, and it deals mainly with anomalies and their sequelae. Twenty per cent of this handsome volume is exclusively devoted to anomalies and much of the remainder describes their influence in infection, calculous disease, etc. The author, who has limited himself to pediatric urology, bases his paragraphs and conclusions on his own observations and writes on each aspect of genito-urinary disease in children with authority.

The discussion of each subject includes the practical points in diagnosis (with pyelographic depiction where possible) and detailed directions for treatment. There is a whole chapter of illustrated operative procedures. This volume will be used by urologists and would be a valuable reference work for pediatricians.